

2019 FURBEARERS AND TRAPPING

FWP Montana Trapping and Hunting Regulations



American pine marten | *Martes americana* | Photo by Donald M. Jones

TURN IN POACHERS: CALL 1-800-TIP-MONT

Regulations are Adopted by the Fish & Wildlife Commission

Regulations for season dates, structures, and restrictions were adopted by the F&W Commission on August 15, 2019, under the authority granted in MCA 87-1-301 and are valid from the date of adoption, through June 30, 2020. The F&W Commission reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits, and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. Statutes and other information, including other agencies' restrictions, are provided as a courtesy and do not fall under Commission authority. *Martha Williams, Director.*

Discrimination Prohibited – State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any FWP program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Human Resources, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Highlights

- Beginning with the 2019 license year, two swivels, including a center swivel on the base of the trap, will be required for all ground set foothold traps.
- The fisher season in the Cabinet FMU is closed.
- A per person limit on marten was established in trapping district 1.
- The bobcat quota in region 2 was reduced from 200 to 150.
- Inspection of bobcat, fisher, otter, swift fox, and marten harvests can now be completed within 10 days of the calendar close of the season. Formerly it was within 10 days of the harvest.
- Roads and Trails definition has been clarified see roads and trails information under the setbacks section on page 5

Reminders

- Setbacks** apply to all public, federal, and state lands for the trapping of **predatory animals and non-game wildlife** as well as **furbearers at any time**.
- Special trapping regulations in **Lynx Protection Zones**
- Trapping on Fish, Wildlife & Parks lands, which includes Wildlife Management Areas, Fishing Access Sites, and State Parks requires, written authorization.
- Trappers are required to obtain a free Special Recreational Use License (SRUL) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping or snaring on State School Trust lands.

License Information

The following licenses, with the exceptions noted under "Requirements," are available at Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices and most FWP license providers throughout the state. Mail-in applications are available online at the FWP website fwp.mt.gov. The current years' trapper license is valid July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

License Requirement Exemptions – No license is required for resident trappers/hunters or nonresident hunters to take predatory animals and nongame wildlife. Non-resident trappers of predatory animals or non-game wildlife must purchase a non-resident trapping license.

Resident Hound Training License (RHTL) – Entitles license holder to use a dog or dogs to aid in pursuing mountain lions and bobcats during the hound training season from Dec. 2 - April 14 of the following year per MCA 87-2-521. A person may not kill a mountain lion or bobcat with a RHTL.

License Availability Chart

License	Requirements	Cost
Conservation	Required Prerequisite	\$8 Resident \$10 Nonresident
General Trapper, Resident	Available to resident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older. Purchase by Feb. 29, 2020. Allows license holder to trap furbearers, hunt or chase bobcat. Deadline for bobcat validation is Nov. 30, 2019.	\$20
Youth Trapper, Resident	Available to resident conservation license holders 6 through 11 years of age. Valid only for two furbearers – mink and muskrat. Purchase by Feb. 29, 2020.	Free
Landowner Trapper, Resident	Applicant must give description of owned or leased land, name, address, and resident ALS number. License holder restricted to trapping and hunting only on their owned property and leased lands. Issued only through FWP offices. Deadline for bobcat validation is Nov. 30, 2019. Purchase by Feb. 29, 2020.	\$1
Nonresident Trapper	Available only to nonresident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older, whose state of residence has nonresident trapper licenses available to Montana trappers. Issued only through FWP offices. Season Dates: Oct. 16-Apr. 15. Valid only for predatory animals, nongame wildlife, and wolves. Purchase by Feb. 29, 2020.	\$250
Special DNRC Recreational Use License	Required to trap on State School Trust Lands. Contact Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to apply for this license (406-444-9726). Apply by Sep. 30, 2019.	Free
Resident Hound Training (RHTL)	Available to resident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older. Purchase by Feb. 29, 2020.	\$5
Fur Dealer	Issued only through FWP Helena Headquarters, Law Enforcement Division. First-time purchase any time but renewal must be by May 1.	\$10 Resident \$10 Agent * Nonresident

*Montana nonresident fur dealer license cost is the same cost as a nonresident fur dealer license in the home state of the applicant.

Hunter Education Requirements (MCA 87-2-105): If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season.

Definitions

Center Swivel (CR)- A swivel located on the underside of the trap as near the center of the base plate as reasonably possible. The swivel can be attached directly to the base plate at the center, attached to a D-ring centered on the base plate, or can be included in the chain at a point no more than 5 normal chain links from a centered D-ring or base plate attachment point at the center.

Excess Take- the take of a legally harvestable species after the season is closed or an individual's possession limit has been met.

Fur Dealer (MCA 87-4-301)- Any person or persons, firm, company, or corporation engaging in or conducting wholly or in part the business of buying or selling, trading or dealing within the state of Montana, in the skins or pelts of any animal or animals, designated by the laws of Montana as furbearing or predatory animals. If such fur dealer resides in or the principal place of business is within the state of Montana, that dealer shall be deemed a resident fur dealer. All other fur dealers should be deemed nonresident fur dealers.

Furbearers - Furbearing animals are legally defined as beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, swift fox, and lynx . There is currently no season for lynx or for wolverine. Only Montana residents may hunt or trap furbearers and a license is required. Bobcats are the only furbearer that may be hunted in Montana.

Ground Set - Any trap originally set in or on the land (soil, rock, etc.). This includes any traps elevated less than 48 inches above the natural ground or current snow level.

Nongame Wildlife - means any wild mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, fish, mollusk, crustacean, or other animal not otherwise legally classified by Montana statute or regulation. Examples of nongame wildlife are badger, raccoon, and red fox. There is no resident license required to trap nongame wildlife. Nonresidents must purchase a license in order to trap nongame wildlife.

Non-target Capture (CR)- Capture of any animal that cannot be lawfully trapped, including domestic animals.

Predatory Animals - coyote, weasel, skunk, and civet cat. There is no resident license required to trap predators. Nonresidents must purchase a license in order to trap predators.

Relaxing Snare - A relaxing snare has a snare lock that allows the snare loop to release constriction pressure on the captured animal when the cable is not taut (e.g., when the animal stops pulling, it will loosen). This means that the locking device on the snare cable operates both ways allowing the snare cable to move back and forth to some degree. Locks that only close or that use springs or other powering devices to hold them closed are not considered relaxing snares. See page 15 for examples of relaxing snares.

Trap - to take or harvest or participate in the taking or harvesting of any wildlife protected by the laws of the state by setting or placing any mechanical device, snare, deadfall, pit, or device intended to take wildlife or to remove wildlife from any of these devices.

Water Set - Any trap originally set in or on any body of water. This shall include traps on floats in the water and those that are set with a minimum of one-third of the trap submerged. The term water set applies to traps set on beaver dams, in bank holes and in the water at bank slides. This shall not apply to temporarily standing water resulting from any cause, such as rainfall, snow, runoff, or flooding.

Laws and Rules

These laws and rules apply to trapping of furbearers, predatory animals, and nongame wildlife. They do not apply to trapping that is regulated by Title 81, Montana Code Annotated.

Captures of Domestic Dogs (CR)- To improve understanding of accidental dog captures in traps or snares, trappers must report such captures, excluding trappers' dogs, to an FWP regional office within **24 hours** of identifying the capture.

Disturbing Traps or Trapped Animals (MCA 87-6-601(5))- A person may not destroy, disturb, or remove any trap or snare belonging to another person or remove wildlife from a trap or snare belonging to another person without permission of the owner of the trap or snare, except that from March 1 to Oct. 1 of each year a person may remove any snare from land owned or leased by the person if the snare would endanger livestock. This requirement does not apply to a law enforcement officer acting within the scope of the officer's duty.

Exposed Carcass or Bait (CR)- No trap or snare may be set within 30 feet of an exposed carcass or bait that is visible from above.

Inspection of Wildlife (MCA 87-1-502) - Wildlife taken must be shown to FWP Enforcement personnel for inspection when requested.

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) - Montana is a member of the IWVC. Under the compact, member states recognize suspensions of hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges. It is unlawful for a violator whose privilege to hunt, fish, or trap is suspended to obtain or attempt to obtain a license, tag, or permit in a member state. For more information, call 406-444-2452.

Landowner Permission (MCA 87-6-415)

A resident or nonresident shall obtain permission of the landowner, the lessee, or their agents before taking or attempting to take game animals, migratory game birds, nongame wildlife, predatory animals, furbearers, upland game birds, or wolves while hunting on private property.

Even if the land is not posted, hunters and trappers must have permission from the land owner, lessee, or their agent before hunting or trapping on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not.

Access to public land through private land requires permission of the private land owner, lessee, or their agent.

Retrieval of all wildlife through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

(MCA 87-6-601) - A person may not use a snare trap for the purpose of snaring a fur-bearing animals, a predatory animal, or a nongame species unless the consent of the landowner has been obtained for a set on private property; and the snare trap is set in a manner and at a time so that it will not unduly endanger livestock.

License and Permit Possession/Use (MCA 87-6-304)

It is unlawful to:

- Hunt or trap or attempt to hunt or trap for any furbearing animal unless the person is carrying the required license or permit at the time.
- Refuse to produce a license or permit and the identification used in purchasing a license or permit for inspection to a game warden.
- Alter or change a license in any material manner.
- Loan or transfer any license to another person.
- Use a license issued to another person.
- Have physical control over a valid and unused hunting license or permit issued to another person while in any location that the species to be hunted may inhabit. This prohibition does not apply to a person who is carrying or has physical control over a license or permit issued to that person's spouse or to any minor when the spouse or minor is hunting with that person.

Littering (MCA 75-10-212) - A holder of a Montana resident or nonresident hunting license or camping permit convicted of littering campgrounds, public or private lands, streams, or lakes, while hunting, fishing, or camping shall forfeit any current Montana hunting, fishing, or trapping license and the privilege to hunt, fish, camp, or trap in Montana for a period of one year.

Lynx Season Closed - Trapped lynx that are uninjured must be released immediately and the incident must be reported to a FWP warden or biologist within 24 hours of release. If a lynx is injured, trappers must immediately notify a warden, biologist, or an FWP regional office, to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal.

Non-target Capture Requirement (CR) - The capture of any animal that cannot be lawfully trapped, including domestic animals, must be reported to FWP within 24 hours. Any such animal that is uninjured must be released prior to the trapper leaving the trap site. If unable to safely release the animal, call FWP. Exception: Any such animal that is injured or dead must promptly (with little or no delay) be reported to FWP to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal. Animals that may be lawfully trapped are furbearers or wolves for which the season is open and an individual possession limit has not been reached, nongame wildlife and predators. A trapper may NOT trap any game animal, game bird or migratory bird.

Occupied Dwellings (CR)— Ground sets, including all snares, are unlawful within 1000 feet of an occupied dwelling without written notification to the inhabitant.

Recorded Animal Sounds (MCA 87-6-401)— It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing, or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals, wolves, and those birds not protected by state or federal law.

Snares (CR) — A person may not use a snare trap for the purpose of snaring a fur-bearing animal, a predatory animal, or a nongame species unless the snare trap is tagged with a numbered metal device identifying the owner's name, address, and telephone number. All snares are required to be equipped with a breakaway lock device designed to release when more than 350 pounds of force is applied. Breakaway snares must be fastened to an immovable object solidly secured to the ground. The use of drags is unlawful on snares. All snares in Lynx Protection Zones must be equipped with a relaxing device. All bobcat snares in Trapping Districts 1, 2, and portions of 3, 4, and 5 (see map on page 8) must be equipped with a relaxing device. Appropriate breakaway snares and relaxing devices for snares are listed on page 15.

Trap Identification (MCA-87-6-601(2)) — Metal identification tags must be fastened to all traps. Metal tags must bear the name and address of the trapper or a personal identification number, which is the trappers date of birth and ALS number. Metal identification tags for snares must have the trap owners name, address, and telephone number. Landowners trapping on their own lands and irrigation right-of-way contiguous to their land do not need to tag traps or snares.

Laws & Rules Specific to Furbearers

Taking of furbearers during the open season by any means other than trapping or snaring is unlawful, unless otherwise stated.

Destroying Muskrat or Beaver Houses (MCA 87-6-301(4)) — a person may not at any time willfully destroy, open or leave open, or partially destroy a house of any muskrat or beaver, except that trapping in the house of muskrats is lawful when authorized by the F&W Commission, see page 9 for additional information.

Harvest Data Reporting (CR)— Trappers and hunters are required to personally provide harvest registration data for bobcat, otter, marten, fisher, and swift fox at the time the pelt is presented to a designated FWP employee for tagging.

Indian Reservations (MCA 87-6-602, CR) - The F&W Commission has, by rule, closed all Trust lands to the hunting and trapping of all furbearers with the use of state licenses. FWP will not provide Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) or state pelt tags for furbearers taken from all Trust lands. Furbearers lawfully taken under state regulations with a Montana trapping license, during an open season, from deeded "fee" lands within the exterior boundary of a reservation may be tagged by a designated FWP employee. The bobcat season on all lands within the Flathead Indian Reservation are closed by FWP Commission Rule.

Live Furbearers — Wild furbearers captured alive must be immediately killed or released. It is unlawful for a person to possess or transport wild furbearers alive. Live furbearing animals may not be possessed or transported except under the provisions of the fur farm or roadside zoo permits. It is unlawful to capture wild furbearers for fur farm stock.

Marked or Radio-Collared Animals (CR) — It is lawful to harvest furbearers that have radio collars, neck bands, ear tags and/or other markers, but markers and radio collars must be returned to FWP. Please report the killing of a marked animal to the local FWP office.

Pelt Possession (CR)— It shall be unlawful for any fur dealer or fur dealer agent to purchase or possess any untagged bobcat, otter, marten, fisher, or wolverine, except those untagged furs originating outside Montana that are accompanied by an export permit or other documentation of lawful acquisition.

Pelt Tagging/Inspection (CR) — Trappers are required to personally present the pelts of fisher, bobcat, otter, swift fox,

and marten for tagging to a FWP employee within 10 days of the calendar close of season. Trappers are required to provide harvest registration data for fisher, bobcat, otter, swift fox, and/or marten at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. Trappers unable to comply with the pelt tagging requirement due to special circumstances or the unavailability of local FWP personnel must still report their pelts within 10 days of the calendar close of season by contacting a regional office to make arrangements for tagging by FWP personnel. Pelts not presented or reported to FWP personnel within 10 days of the calendar close of season are subject to confiscation.

Pelt Tags (CR) — The pelt tag is required to remain attached to the pelt until tanned or after being exported.

Quotas and Season Closures — Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota or subquota is reached or approached prior to the end of the regular season. The F&W Commission has authorized the department to initiate a closure prior to reaching a quota or subquota when conditions or circumstances indicate the quota may be reached within the 48-hour closure notice period.

Reporting (CR) — Trappers and hunters are required to personally report their bobcat, fisher, otter, and/or swift fox harvests within 24 hours by calling the statewide FWP reporting line at **1-877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453 or 406-444-0356)** so that FWP can monitor quota levels. Trappers could also report their harvest online at fwp.mt.gov through myfwp. Trappers are required to provide: name, telephone number, ALS number, species, date of harvest, trapping district, county, specific location (TRS or Lat/Long), and sex when reporting a furbearer harvest.

Return to Kill Site (CR) — As a condition of hunting and trapping in Montana, persons may be required to return to the kill site or trap site if requested to do so by a FWP warden.

Specimen Collection (CR)

Lower Jaw: Hunters or trappers harvesting a bobcat, otter, and/or swift fox must provide a cleaned and air-dried complete lower jaw (both sides) for aging before a pelt tag is issued. Ages of harvested animals is important information used in setting harvest quotas. Before bringing in the lower jaw, remove as much flesh as possible and allow it to dry in the open air. To prevent decay, do not store or transport in any closed container made of plastic—use a paper bag or cardboard box. The jaw may be returned upon request.

Carcasses — It is mandatory that the entire and intact carcass of all fisher be turned into FWP in good condition, at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. The skulls will be retained by FWP for processing and examination and then returned to the owner if requested. Good condition is defined as fresh or frozen and securely wrapped in such a manner as to have prevented decomposition in order that all tissue samples are suitable for lab analysis.

Two-way Communication (CR) — Two-way electronic communication (radios, cell phones, text messages, etc.) may not be used to:

- Hunt game animals or upland game birds, migratory birds, or furbearers as defined in Montana law ("Hunt" means to "pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess, or capture."), OR
- Avoid game checking stations, FWP enforcement personnel, or to facilitate unlawful activity.
- When hunting mountain lions or bobcats with dogs, this rule applies when dogs are placed or physically released on tracks or a scent trail.

The rule shall not be interpreted to prohibit the possession or use of two-way radios for safety or other legitimate purposes, nor does it prohibit the use of radio tracking equipment to locate hounds when hunting mountain lions or bobcats.

Waste of Furbearers (MCA 87-6-603) — A person may not waste a furbearing animal by purposely or knowingly:

- Failing to pick up traps or snares at the end of the trapping season so that the pelt of a fur-bearing animal is wasted;
- Attending traps or snares so that the furbearing animals are wasted; or
- Wasting the pelt of any furbearing animal.

Closures

All National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and Indian Trust or Tribal Trust lands are closed to trapping except as otherwise specified. For information or permits to trap on National Wildlife Refuges, contact the local refuge manager. All Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges are closed to the Bobcat Hound Training Season. There are also areas closed to beaver and otter trapping. See the beaver specific section for details.

Region 2 Closures

- Lake Como Ski Area – Ground sets are unlawful from Dec. 1 to March 31. The area is defined as that portion of the Bitterroot National Forest, and Ravalli County, lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of U.S. Forest Service Roads (FS) 550 and 550A, then south and west on FS 550A to its junction with FS 13201, then north on said road to its junction with FS 550, then east on said road to its junction with FS 550A, the point of beginning.
- Blue Mountain and Pattee Canyon Recreation Areas, the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area (that portion lying outside and excluding the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area), and the Bass Creek Recreation Area are closed to furbearer trapping. For

information or maps of these Special Recreation Areas, contact the local US Forest Service Office.

- Deer and Elk Hunting District 282 is closed to the Bobcat Hound Training Season.

Beaver and Otter Closures and Special Management Area Map



Setbacks (CR)

Ground Sets Along Roads and Highways – Ground sets using 7 x 7 inches and larger body-gripping traps, and all snares, are unlawful within the right-of-way of county roads, state and federal highways, and interstates. Along county roads with no defined right of way these ground sets are unlawful within 50 feet from the edge of the road.

Jaw spread sizes of common conibear traps:

110 - 4.5 inches	220 - 7 inches
120 - 4.5 inches	280 - 8 inches
160 - 6 inches	330 - 10 inches

Setbacks and Trapping on Public Land with Ground Sets and/or Snares – The following regulations and setbacks apply to all federal and state public lands for the trapping of furbearers, predatory animals and non-game wildlife at any time. See the 2019 Wolf Regulations for wolf setbacks.

Recessing Large Body Grip Traps on Land – Ground sets using 7 x 7 inches and larger body-gripping traps must have the trigger recessed a minimum of 7 inches in a wood, plastic or metal enclosure or cubby that provides a maximum opening of 52 square inches or less.

Campgrounds and Recreational Sites – Ground sets including snares are unlawful within 1000 feet of a designated campground or recreation site that is accessible by a highway vehicle at any time of the year. This includes areas such as, but not limited to, boat ramps or fishing access sites that have construction improvements or are accessible by a highway vehicle at any time of the year.

Roads and Trails – Ground sets and snares require a 50-foot setback from the edge of roads and hiking trails that are designated by administrative signs or numbers. **Exception:** Roads closed year-round to motor vehicle and OHV use are not subject to these setbacks, for instance, Kelly-humped roads that are inaccessible to motor vehicle and OHV use but are lawfully accessible by snowmobile.

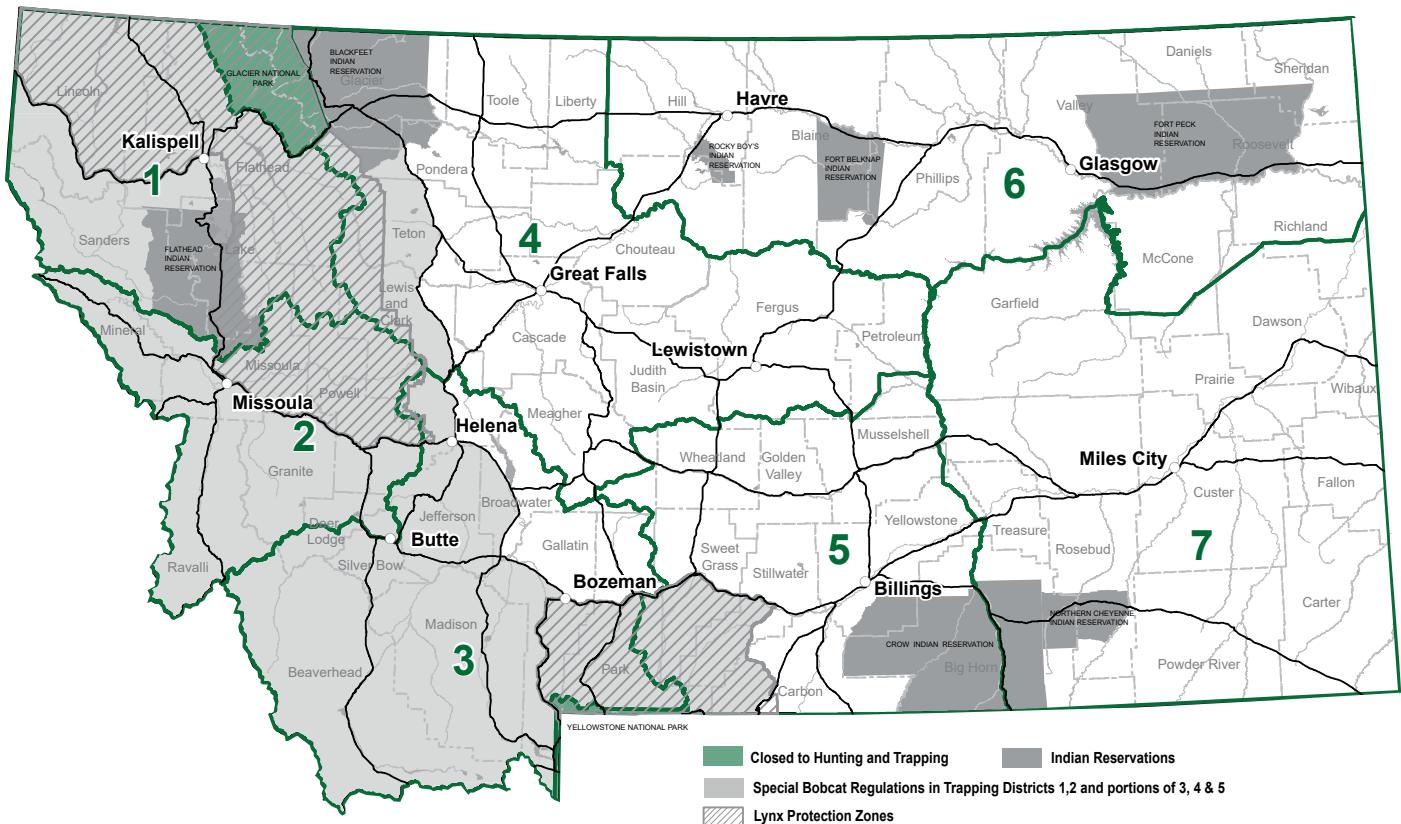
Trailheads – Ground sets are unlawful within 300 feet and lethal ground sets and snares are unlawful within 1000 feet of a designated or marked trailhead that is accessible by a highway vehicle at any time of year.

Expanded Setbacks Along High Recreational Use Trails and Roads

A 500-foot setback from both edges of the trails and roads listed below is required for all ground set traps in Trapping Districts 1 and 3. These setback rules do not apply to state or federal agency management or research efforts.

Trapping District 1	Trapping District 3				
	Hyalite Area	Bozeman Face Trails	West Bridger Mountains	Gallatin Canyon	Paradise Valley
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Blacktail Nordic TrailBig Fork Nordic TrailRound Meadow Nordic TrailWhitefish Legacy TrailEureka Rails to Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lick Creek/Wildhorse Trail #452History Rock Loops Trail #424Blackmore Loops Trail #423Crescent Lake Trail #213West Shore Trail #431E. Fork Road/Pallisade Trail #433Grotto Falls Trail #432Moser/Buckskin Road LoopMaxy Loop Trail #62	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bozeman Creek/Moser Winter Trail #850 & #851South Cottonwood Winter Trail #852Bear Canyon Winter Trail #848	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“M” Trails #538, #511, #512 and #513 in Sec 27 T1S, R6ESypes Trail #531Middle Cottonwood Trail #586Truman Gulch Trail #535	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Porcupine Trail #34Beehive Basin Winter Trail #861	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mill Creek Trail #945Suce Creek Trail #44

Trapping District Boundaries and Lynx Protection Zones



Furbearer Regulations by Species

Beaver

- Beaver that have been lawfully trapped can be dispatched with a firearm. Beaver that have not been trapped cannot be taken with a firearm, except as outlined below in damage situations.
- Owners and lessees of property being damaged by beaver or muskrat as described in MCA 87-6-602(2) may request a free permit to remove beaver or muskrat and may remove beaver or muskrat without a permit between June 1 - Aug. 31. Please contact an FWP employee in your administrative region for further information and to request a damage control permit.
- A person participating in a beaver or muskrat damage complaint must have in their possession the damage permit issued to the landowner (or a copy thereof) during control activities. Damaging beaver or muskrat may be removed by trapping or shooting. A person may possess beaver or muskrat under the damage permit.



Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
TDs 1, 2, & 3	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	Unlimited	Unlimited	Not required	Not required unless requested by a FWP official	None
TDs 4, 5, 6, & 7	Sept. 1 - May 31	Unlimited	Unlimited	Not required	Not required unless requested by a FWP official	None

Beaver and Otter Closures

Broadwater County - Those portions of Dry Creek, Confederate Gulch, White's Gulch, Avalanche Gulch, Eagle Creek, Crow Creek, Jenkins Creek on public land.

Deer Lodge County - The entire Dry Cottonwood Creek drainage.

Gallatin County - That portion of the Gallatin River and all of its tributaries above the Gallatin River Bridge at the Squaw Creek Ranger Station.

Gallatin and Park Counties - That portion of the Yellowstone River and all of its tributaries inside the Gallatin National Forest boundary above the Yellowstone River Bridge on I-90 at Livingston.

Granite County - The entire Smart Creek, Wyman Creek, Swamp Gulch Creek, and Sand Basin Creek drainages.

Lewis and Clark County - The Blackfoot River upstream from the mouth of Bartlett Creek including the entire Bartlett Creek drainage.

Mineral County - The entire Cedar Creek, Big Creek, and Flatrock Creek drainages.

Missoula and Mineral Counties - The entire Fish Creek drainage.

Missoula County - Nine Mile Creek drainage above Pine Creek.

Powell County - The entire Pikes Peak drainage.

Sweet Grass County - That portion of the East Boulder River and all its tributaries from the Gallatin National Forest boundary upstream to the headwaters of the East Boulder River.

Sweet Grass and Park Counties - That portion of the Main Boulder River and all its tributaries from the mouth of Falls Creek upstream to the headwaters of the Main Boulder River.

Teton County - The entire Teton drainage including all tributaries of the South, Middle, West, and North Forks of the Teton River, downstream to the National Forest boundary.

Furbearer Regulations by Species

Bobcat

License must be purchased by Nov. 30 to be valid for bobcat

Quotas: Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota is reached or approached prior to the end of the regular season. Current harvest status information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727 or 406-444-9557, 24 hours a day, or the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. The toll-free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.



Additional restrictions apply to areas now designated as Lynx Protection Zones, see those rules and descriptions on page 8.

Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limits	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
TD 1	Dec. 1 – Feb. 15	275	4 in TD 1 or 7 in combination with TDs 1-3	Required within 24 hours of harvest	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Lower Jaw
TD 2	Dec. 1 – Feb. 15	150	7 in TD 2 or 7 in combination with TDs 1-3			
TD 3	Dec. 1 – Feb. 15	150	5 in TD 3 or 7 in combination with TDs 1-3			
TD 4	Dec. 1 – Mar. 1	100	No per person limit			
TD 5	Dec. 1 – Mar. 1	200	No per person limit			
TD 6	Dec. 1 – Mar. 1	50	No per person limit			
TD 7	Dec. 1 – Mar. 1	600	No per person limit			

Bobcat Hunting Season

- Bobcat is the only animal defined by law as a furbearing animal that may be taken by hunting per MCA 87-2-601. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Bobcat chasing during the hunting season is open each day one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Bobcats may not be hunted or taken except during bobcat hunting hours.
- Dogs may be used to take bobcat, but no other animals defined by law as furbearing animals. Dogs may be used to hunt or chase bobcats within prescribed hunting hours and seasons.
- Persons with a Trapper License validated for bobcat may lawfully chase bobcats during the open hunting season and anytime after the season is closed in Trapping Districts 1, 2, 3 until Feb. 15 or Trapping Districts 4, 5, 6, 7 until March 1. A trapper license must be purchased and validated for bobcat no later than Nov. 30 of the current license year to be valid.
- Nonresidents may not hunt or chase bobcats. Residents must possess a valid trappers license to hunt and chase bobcats or an RHTL to only chase bobcats.
- Landowner permission is required to hunt on private land, including releasing dogs or chasing bobcats during the chase-only season.
- The bobcat season on the Flathead Indian Reservation is closed.

Resident Hound Training Season (RHTL)

- Trapping District 1, 2 and 3: Feb. 16 - April 14. Trapping District 4, 5, 6 and 7: March 2 - April 14.
- A trapper license must be purchased and validated for bobcat by Nov. 30 of the current license year to be valid for chasing bobcat. Bobcat chasing is open each day one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Dogs may be used to chase bobcats within prescribed seasons. All Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges and Deer, Elk and Mountain Lion Hunting District 282 are closed to the Bobcat Hound Training Season.
- It is unlawful for a hound handler or bobcat hunter to release dogs on a bobcat track, or allow dogs to chase a bobcat, or hold a bobcat at bay, when the season is not open to hunting or chasing bobcats.
- Bobcats may not be trapped to be later released for hunting and/or chasing with dogs. Wild furbearers captured alive must be immediately killed or released. It is unlawful for a person to possess or transport wild furbearers alive.

Furbearer Regulations by Species

Lynx are protected by Federal law under the Endangered Species Act



Avoid placing sets that might attract lynx. Trapped lynx that are uninjured must be released immediately and the incident must be reported to a FWP warden or biologist within **24 hours** of release. If a lynx is injured, trappers must immediately notify a FWP warden or biologist or an FWP Regional Office, to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal. Persons who know about the taking of a lynx shall report it by calling 1-800-TIP-MONT (800-847-6668).

Lynx Protection Zones – Special regulations are required on public lands in areas identified as “Lynx Protection Zones” to protect lynx and help trappers avoid accidentally taking lynx in Montana. The special regulations for areas within the Lynx Protection Zones are:

- Rabbit or hare parts, whether for flagging purposes or for bait, may not be used within 30 feet of a set trap.
- The use of natural flagging such as bird wings, feathers, or pieces of fur may not be used within 30 feet of a set trap.
- The use of fresh meat baits is not allowed – only tainted meat bait allowed (exposed to temperatures above freezing for >24 hours)
- The use of Conibear or “body-gripping” traps are not allowed unless they meet **ONE** of the following criteria:
 - ▶ they are placed as part of a water set
 - ▶ they are placed as part of an elevated set that does not include a leaning pole
 - ▶ they have a jaw spread of less than or equal to 5 inches (a Conibear #120 or smaller)
 - ▶ they are placed in a leaning pole set with a pole diameter of no larger than 4 inches and with trap and bait set at least 48 inches above the surface
 - ▶ if they have a jaw spread of >5 inches, they are placed with the trigger recessed a minimum of seven inches and contained in a wood, plastic, or metal enclosure or cubby with an opening no larger than 52 square inches
- For trappers targeting bobcat, the use of foothold traps are not allowed unless they meet **ONE** of the following criteria:
 - ▶ have an inside jaw spread of less than or equal to 5 3/8 inches
 - ▶ are placed in a leaning pole set with a pole diameter of no larger than 4 inches and with trap and bait set at least 48 inches above the surface
 - ▶ are equipped set with a minimum 10-pound pan tension device
- The use of snares are not allowed unless they meet **ALL** of the following criteria:
 - ▶ have a cable diameter greater than or equal to 5/64 inches
 - ▶ have loops that are larger than 8 inches measured from side to side
 - ▶ are equipped with a breakaway lock device designed to release when more than 350 pounds of force is applied are equipped with a relaxing snare lock
 - ▶ all snares in Lynx Protection Zones must be equipped with a relaxing device
- All leaning pole sets must use poles that are no larger than 4 inches in diameter and with trap and bait sets at least 48 inches above the surface.
- “Take” of lynx is not allowed due to their federal status as a threatened species. Captures, whether the lynx is released uninjured, is injured, or killed are all considered “take” according to the definition set by federal law and used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Any lynx that is caught and uninjured must be immediately released, if possible. Any trapper who accidentally takes a lynx is required to notify a FWP warden or biologist or an FWP Regional Office as soon as possible or within 24 hours.
- Trappers targeting bobcat are required to visually check their traps at least once every 48 hours.
- Trappers are strongly encouraged to not set traps if lynx are observed in an area or if lynx tracks are identified. Trappers are also strongly encouraged to use live traps (e.g. box trap) and carry catchpoles to aid in the safe release of non-target species.

Lynx Protection Zone Descriptions (see map on page 6)

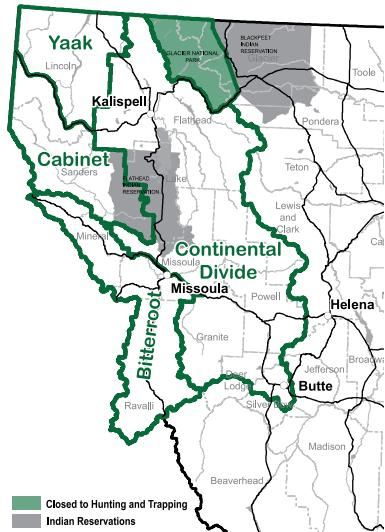
Greater Yellowstone Area

Those portions of Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 191 and the Montana/Wyoming boundary, then northerly along said highway to its intersection with Interstate 90, then easterly along said interstate to its intersection with Highway 78, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with Highway 212, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with the western edge of Section 20 (T8S, R20E), then easterly along the USFS/private land boundary to the northeast corner of the SE ¼ of Section 22 (T8S, R20E), then southerly along the USFS/private land boundary to its intersection with the Montana/Wyoming boundary, then west along said boundary to the point of beginning.

Northwest Montana

Those portions of Lincoln, Flathead, Glacier, Lake, Missoula, Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Teton and Pondera Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the westernmost point of the Montana/Canada boundary, then south along the Montana/Idaho boundary to its intersection with Highway 2, then southeasterly along said highway to its intersection with Highway 35, then southerly along said highway to its intersection Highway 93, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with Interstate 90, the easterly along said interstate to its intersection with Highway 12, then easterly along said highway to MacDonald Pass, then northerly along the USFS/private land boundary and then the Glacier National Park/Blackfeet Reservation boundary to the Montana/Canada boundary, then westerly along said boundary to the point of beginning.

Furbearer Regulations by Species



Fisher

Quotas: Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota or subquota is reached or approached prior to the end of the regular season. Current harvest status information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727 or 406-444-9557, 24 hours a day, or the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. The toll-free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.

[Additional restrictions apply to areas now designated as Lynx Protection Zones, see those rules and descriptions on page 8.](#)

Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
Bitterroot FMU	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15	Overall 5 Female Subquota 1	1	Required within 24 hours of harvest	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Carcass
Cabinet FMU Yaak FMU Continental Divide FMU	Closed					

Marten

Avoid Incidental Capture of Fisher – Marten trappers are encouraged to use cubby boxes with a closed front and 2 ½ inch x 2 ½ inch entrance hole to help avoid incidental catch of fisher.

[Additional restrictions apply to areas now designated as Lynx Protection Zones, see those rules and descriptions on page 8.](#)



Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
TDs 1-5	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15	Unlimited	TD 1: 10 TDs 2-5: No per person limit	Not required	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Not Collected

Mink

State Wildlife Management Areas have specific closures and season dates. See WMA Special Regulations..



Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
TDs 1-7	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	Unlimited	Unlimited	Not required	Not required unless requested by a FWP official	Not Collected

Muskrat

- State Wildlife Management Areas have specific closures and season dates. See WMA Special Regulations.
- Traps may be set in muskrat houses provided the part removed is replaced after insertion of the trap and after removal of the trap. It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, leave open, or partially destroy a muskrat house.
- Owners and lessees of property being damaged by beaver or muskrat as described in MCA 87-6-602(2) may request a free permit to remove beaver or muskrat and may remove beaver or muskrat without a permit between June 1 - Aug. 31. Please contact an FWP employee in your administrative region for further information and to request a damage control permit.
- A person participating in a beaver or muskrat damage complaint must have in their possession the damage permit issued to the landowner (or a copy thereof) during control activities. Damaging beaver or muskrat may be removed by trapping or shooting. A person may possess beaver or muskrat under the damage permit.



Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
TDs 1-7	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	Unlimited	Unlimited	Not required	Not required unless requested by a FWP official	Not Collected

Furbearer Regulations by Species

Otter

Quotas – Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota is reached or approached prior to the end of the regular season. Current harvest status information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727 or 406-444-9557, 24 hours a day, or the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. The toll-free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.



Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Inspection/Pelt Tagging	Specimen Collection
TD 1	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	28	3	Required within 24 hours of harvest	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Lower Jaw
TD 2	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	25	3			
TD 3	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	36	2			
TD 4	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	8	2			
TD 5	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	4	2			
TD 6	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	2	2			
TD 7	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	4	2			

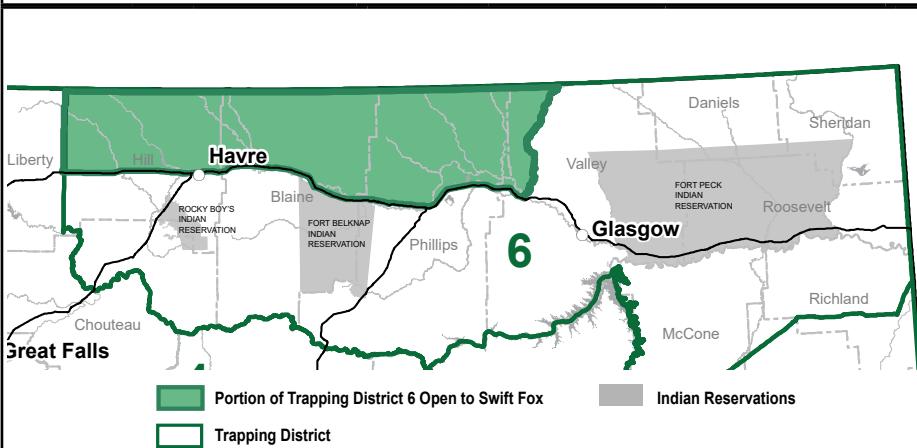
Closures – All areas closed to beaver trapping are also closed to otter trapping. See the list of closure areas under the beaver season section. State Wildlife Management Areas have specific closures and season dates. See WMA Special Regulations.

Recommendations to avoid incidental harvest of otter –

Otter inhabit rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and ponds. If the otter season has closed, avoid trapping where otter sign is evident. Look for tracks and scat while scouting or setting an area for beaver. When placing any kind of trap along a beaver pond, avoid putting sets near the dam crossover or near the inlet of the pond. One relatively otter-safe set utilizes a castor mound on the edge of a pond. The castor scent will attract beaver while otter will generally be uninterested. Also, avoid setting near abandoned beaver lodges and bank dens. These sets are not productive for beaver, and otter will readily use them. Otter generally avoid areas where beaver are active, so make sets as close as possible to active lodges.

Size 330 body-gripping traps (Conibears) are one of the most commonly used beaver traps. The trap is also very effective for otter. With some minor alterations the 330 can be set to minimize accidental otter captures. Move the trigger as far as you can to one side of the trap and bend the trigger wires close together. You can also shorten the trigger length to 4 to 5 inches by cutting or bending the wires. Since otter are more slender than beaver, otter often glide through the trap without tripping the trigger. Beaver, which tend to be larger and slightly less agile, will likely hit the release trigger while moving through the trap.

If you use foothold traps to capture beaver, avoid using them on dam crossovers, since otter often use these same areas. Castor mound sets with the trap set fairly deep are less likely to catch otter.



Swift Fox

(see description of portion of TD 6 open to swift fox, page 14)

Quotas – Season will close with 48 hours notice upon reaching the trapping district quota, or on the season closure date, whichever occurs first.

Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Inspection/Pelt Tagging	Specimen Collection
Portion of TD 6	Nov. 1 - Mar. 1	10	3	Required within 24 hours of harvest	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Lower Jaw

Wolverine

Trappers who capture a furbearer when the season is closed or trapper limit is met must notify a FWP warden or biologist residing in the trapping district where the animal was taken within **24 hours** to arrange collection of the animal if the animal cannot be released uninjured. It is unlawful for any person to retain possession of an incidentally taken furbearer.



CLOSED

2019 Furbearer Season Dates by Trapping District							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Beaver	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15			Sept. 1 - May 31			
Otter							
Muskrat				Nov. 1 - Apr. 15			
Mink							
Bobcat	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15		Dec. 1 - Mar. 1				
Marten	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15			Closed Season			
Fisher	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15	Closed Season					
Wolverine				Closed Season			
Swift Fox	Closed Season			Nov. 1 - Mar. 1	Closed Season		
Lynx				Closed Season			

Wildlife Management Areas with Special Regulations

FWP owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are generally open to trapping, although special regulations apply to most WMAs. Contact the local WMA manager or the FWP Regional Office for information on how to obtain permission to trap on WMAs in the state. The following WMAs have special regulations in effect that require trappers to apply for a permit by Sept. 15 to trap all or a portion of the area.

Beckman Wildlife Management Area - The Beckman Wildlife Management Area, Fergus County, is open to one trapper per trapping season. One trapper will be selected by a random drawing and permitted to trap furbearers and predatory animals. Applicants should be aware that only limited populations of most furbearers exist on the WMA and that most access is by foot. No trapping will be allowed on the WMA until the end of the upland game bird season. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Sonja Andersen, Beckman WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Lewistown Area Resource Office
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457

Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area - The Blackfoot-Clearwater Area is divided into two trapping units (Clearwater River and Cottonwood Creek), and trapping is permitted during two periods (Nov. 1 - Jan. 31; Feb. 1 - April 15); with one trapper per unit and time period (4 trappers total). Trappers will be selected by random drawing. The first trapper will be asked to choose a unit and period, the second trapper drawn will be offered the remaining choices and so on. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers, including 10 beaver. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Scott Eggeman, Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3201 Spurgin Road,
Missoula, MT 59801

Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area - The Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area is divided into two trapping units with only one unit open to trapping in a given year. One trapper will be selected by a random drawing and will be notified which unit is open for trapping. Applicants should be aware that only limited populations of most furbearers exist on the WMA and that most access is by foot. No trapping will be allowed on the WMA until the end of the pheasant season. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Adam Grove, Canyon Ferry WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
POB 998,
Townsend, MT 59644

Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area - The Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area is divided into seven trapping units. Permitted trappers will be selected by random drawing. Trappers will be able to select a unit to trap in the order that names are drawn. Each selected trapper shall be permitted to trap a limit of furbearers and wolves, excluding beaver (the entire Fish Creek drainage is closed to beaver trapping). Trappers may also take predatory species within their permitted unit. Note: Because Trapping Unit #5 is within the WMA's winter closure area, trapping activity within Trapping Unit #5 will be limited to non-motorized travel-only after Dec. 1. In addition, because Trapping Units #1 - #7 include State School Trust Land, trappers are reminded to obtain a Special Recreational Use License (application deadline Sept. 15).

Land Access

Private Lands - See landowner permission on page 3.

Tribal/Individual Trust Lands - Contact appropriate tribal government for information.

State Game Preserves, FWP Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), FWP Fishing Access Sites (FAS) and Parks - All state game preserves are open to furbearer trapping. Wildlife Management Areas with big game winter range, unless otherwise posted, are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or Dec. 1, whichever is later, to noon on May 15 each year, as posted (the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes Nov. 10). Trapping on FWP lands which include WMA, FAS, and State Parks requires written authorization of the area manager or a department employee for land not having a resident manager. Conditions for permission to trap on FWP lands may require special regulations or restrictions that differ from standard regulations or dates in this booklet. Beaver Creek Park is open to trapping only by permission obtained from the Hill County Park Board.

State School Trust Lands

- A Conservation License provides hunters, anglers, and trappers access to lawfully accessible State School Trust lands.
- Overnight (2-night) camping is allowed within 200 feet of a lawful access point.
- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on roads designated as open.
- Firearms may not be discharged within one-quarter mile of inhabited dwellings or outbuildings on state trust lands without permission of the inhabitant.
- Game retrieval is by foot or horse only.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits.
- Licensed trappers are required to obtain a free Special Recreational Use License (SRUL) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping on State School Trust lands.
- Additional information is available from FWP or contact DNRC at (406) 444-2074.

Unlawful Posting of State or Federal Land (MCA 45-8-115)- It is unlawful for a person to knowingly post land that is under the ownership or control of the state or federal government to restrict access or use of state or federal land.

Stream Access Law - This law does not allow access for trapping or snaring. Trappers are required to obtain permission from the landowner to trap or snare on navigable streams and rivers between the low and high water marks. Permission is required on private land for all non-navigable streams.

30) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping on School Trust Lands. All applicants must possess a valid trapper license and, if they wish to trap wolves, a valid wolf trapping certification # to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and ALS number, by Sept. 15 to:

Liz Bradley, Fish Creek WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3201 Spurgin Road,
Missoula, MT 59804

Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area - The Freezout Lake WMA is divided into two different trapping units for furbearers. One of these units consists of Pond 3 and is available for trapping to interested trappers by drawing only. Two trapping seasons are designated: fall (Nov. 1 to Dec. 31) and spring (Jan. 1 to April 15). After March 15 no traps will be allowed in/on muskrat houses or hay bale nesting structures. Trappers and trapping units will be selected/assigned by random drawing. Unless supply exceeds demand, any one trapper may trap only one unit and/or season per year. The second trapping unit consists of the main lake, Priest Lake and Ponds 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. This second unit will be open to any/all interested trappers except those persons already holding drawn permission to trap Pond 3. Trapping, hunting and access within the waterfowl closure on the south end of the main lake is prohibited until Nov. 20. Any part of the WMA that is open to public access is open to interested parties for the hunting and/or trapping of predatory animals and nongame wildlife. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply. Applicants must submit their name, address, telephone number, ALS number, and indicate the season for which they wish to be considered by Sept. 15 to:

Brent Lonner, Freezout Lake WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
POB 488,
Fairfield, MT 59436

Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area - The Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area consists of one trapping unit. A spring trapping season is designated: Jan. 1 to April 15. No trapping will be allowed on the area until after the waterfowl hunting season. One trapper will be permitted to trap furbearers and predatory animals. The trapper will be selected by a random drawing. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Jenny Sika, Lake Helena WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
930 Custer Avenue West,
Helena, MT 59601

Mt. Haggin Wildlife Management Area - The Mt. Haggin WMA consists of four trapping units where a quota of four licensed trappers shall be permitted to trap a limit of furbearers and wolves, including 10 beaver. Trappers will be selected by a random drawing. Trappers will be able to select an area to trap in the order that names are drawn. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. Permission to trap wolves on Mt. Haggin WMA is extended only to those trappers that were successful in the drawing. Note: Because Trapping Unit #4 is within the winter closure area of the WMA (closed to all motorized travel Dec. 2 – May 15), trapping activity in this unit will be limited to non-motorized travel only after Dec. 1. In addition, because Trapping Units #3 and #4 include State School Trust Land, trappers are reminded to obtain a Special Recreational Use License (application deadline Sept. 30) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping on School Trust Lands. All applicants must possess a valid trapper license and, if they wish to trap wolves, a valid wolf trapping certification # to apply for this permit. Trappers wishing to take predatory animals must contact Vanna Boccadori for a predator permit. The predator permit is valid only for animals classified as predatory animals (i.e. coyotes) - it does NOT apply

to wolves. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Vanna Boccadori, Mt. Haggin WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte, MT 59701

Trail Creek Beaver Management Area - The Trail Creek trapping area is described as Joseph Creek from Chief Joseph Pass to the confluence with Trail Creek and Trail Creek downstream of this confluence to the National Forest boundary. The Trail Creek trapping areas consists of one unit for beaver and otter. One trapper will be selected by random drawing to trap this unit. The selected trapper shall be permitted to trap five beaver. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Vanna Boccadori,
Trail Creek Beaver Management Area
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1820 Meadowlark Lane,
Butte, MT 59701

Upper Madison Beaver Management Area (refer to description)

- The Upper Madison trapping area consists of seven (7) units for beaver and otter with quotas for each species. Trapping season is Nov. 1 through April 15 by permit only. Trapping units will be allocated based upon a random drawing of written trapper applications. Trappers may select a trapping area in the order their names are drawn. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap five, or 10 beaver depending on the trapping area assigned. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Julie Cunningham,
Upper Madison Beaver Management Area
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Avenue,
Bozeman, MT 59715

Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area - The Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area consists of three (3) trapping units for furbearers: Warm Springs Ponds Unit, Warm Springs Hospital Ponds Unit, and the Job Corps Ponds Unit. Applicants should be aware that most of the access is by foot or in some areas, non-motorized boat. Selected trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers each, including not more than five (5) beaver per trapping unit. Trappers may select a trapping unit in the order their names are drawn. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping unit. Trappers wishing to take predatory animals must contact the FWP area manager for a predator trapping permit. All trapping permits are valid through April 15. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and valid trappers license number by Sept. 15 to:

Brady Shortman, Warm Springs WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
PO Box A,
Warm Springs, MT 59756

Montana Trapper Education

Resident trappers are encouraged to participate in the voluntary trapper education program in your area or the annual Youth Trapper Camp. Contact an FWP regional office for more information.

Trapping District Descriptions

District 1 –

Those portions of Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell and Sanders counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Continental Divide intersects with the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, then westerly and northerly along the Glacier National Park boundary to the Canadian line, then westerly along said line to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly along said border to its junction with the Sanders-Mineral County line, then easterly along said county line to Trail 404 near Combest Peak, then east on Trail 404 to Miller Creek Loop Road, then along Miller Creek and Forest Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, then southerly on Trail 1714 to Montana Route 135, then easterly along said route to Trail 242, then southerly along said trail to Clark Fork-Ninemile Divide, then easterly along said divide and Sanders County line to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then southeasterly and northeasterly along said Reservation boundary to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then easterly and northerly along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide at Wolverine Peak, then south, east and north along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, the point of beginning.

District 2 –

Those portions of Deer Lodge, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli and Silver Bow Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lookout Pass on the Montana-Idaho border, then in an easterly direction along the Mineral County-Sanders County line to U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 near Combest Peak, then east on said trail to Miller Creek Loop Forest Service Road, then east along said road to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 415, then south and east on said trail to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then south on said trail to the Clark Fork River at the Cascade Campground, then south along Forest Service Trail 242 to the Ninemile-Seigel Creek Divide, then easterly along said divide to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then southeasterly and northeasterly along said reservation boundary to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then easterly and northerly along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide, then southerly, easterly and northerly along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then southeasterly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then west and north along said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then westerly and northerly along said border to Lookout Pass, the point of beginning.

District 3 –

Those portions of Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, Silver Bow and Sweet Grass Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Mt. Tiny on the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly and easterly along said border to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northerly and easterly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then north down Mission Creek to the Yellowstone River, then east down the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River Divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork

of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to the Meagher-Gallatin County line, then west along said line to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then northwesterly along said line to the Broadwater-Lewis and Clark - Meagher County line, then northwesterly along the Lewis and Clark - Meagher County line until its intersection with USFS Rd #4143, then westerly along said road to the Beaver Creek Road (USFS Road #138), then northwesterly along said road to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness boundary, then north and west along said line to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Humps cabin, then southwesterly along the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwesterly down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch Divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Holter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate-15, then southerly along said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287, then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then southeasterly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then westerly and northerly along said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, then northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Mt. Tiny, the point of beginning.

Trail Creek Beaver Management Area – Joseph Creek from Chief Joseph Pass to the confluence with Trail Creek and Trail Creek downstream of this confluence to the National Forest boundary.

Upper Madison Beaver Management Area – Those portions of Gallatin and Madison counties that include all of the Madison River drainage upstream from the Earthquake Lake Dam described as follows: Beginning at the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam on the Madison River, then northerly to US Highway 287, then northeasterly to the intersection of Rock Creek, then up said creek to the Beaverhead-Gallatin National Forest boundary, then northerly on said boundary to the Madison River-Gallatin River divide, then easterly along said divide to the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park, then south along said boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line northerly and westerly to its intersection with Highway 87, then along highway 287 to the Madison River, easterly along said river to the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam, the point of beginning.

District 4 –

Those portions of Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Glacier, Hill, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Meagher, Petroleum, Pondera, Teton and Toole counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the eastern boundary of Glacier National Park intersects the United States-Canada Boundary, then east along said boundary to the Liberty-Hill County line, then south on said line to the Marias River, then southerly along the east bank of said river to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Reservoir, then easterly and southerly along the south edge of said reservoir to the Musselshell River, then southerly along the west bank of said river to State Route 200, then west along said route to Winnett, then southwesterly on the Winnett to Roundup Road (FAS 244) to its junction with US Highway 87, then north on said highway approximately 4 miles to Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the South Fork of Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the Red Hill Road, then south along said road to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then westerly along said divide to the head of Meadow Creek, then westerly down said creek to US Highway 191, then south on said highway to the Wheatland- Judith Basin county line, then westerly on said line and subsequently continuing westerly along the Meagher-Judith Basin County line to its junction with the Spring

Creek-Whitetail Creek Road (Forest Service Road #274), then south on this road to US Highway 12, then southeasterly on said highway to its junction with Route 294, then southwesterly on said route to its junction with US Highway 89, then southerly along said highway to Sixteen-Mile Creek (near Ringling), then southwesterly along north bank of said creek to the Meagher-Gallatin County line, then west along said line to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then northwesterly along said line to the Broadwater-Lewis and Clark - Meagher County line, then northwesterly along the Lewis and Clark - Meagher County line until its intersection with USFS Rd #4143, then westerly along said road to the Beaver Creek Road (USFS Road #138), then northwesterly along said road to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness boundary, then north and west along said line to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Hump Cabin, then southwesterly along the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek-Porcupine Creek divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwesterly down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Holter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate 15, then southerly along said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287, then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary, then easterly and northerly along said boundary to the United States-Canada boundary, the point of beginning.

District 5 –

Those portions of Big Horn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland and Yellowstone counties lying within the following described boundaries: Beginning at Wolverine Peak where the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide meets with the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River Divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then north down Mission Creek to the Yellowstone River, then east down the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River Divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to Sixteen Mile Creek, then northwesterly along the south bank of said creek to US Highway 89, then north on said highway to its junction with Route 294, then northeasterly on said route to its junction with US Highway 12, then northwesterly on said highway to its junction with the Spring Creek-Whitetail Creek Road (Forest Service Road #274), then north on said road to the Meagher-Judith Basin county line, then easterly along said line and subsequently continuing easterly along the Wheatland-Judith Basin county line to its junction with US Highway 191, then northerly on said highway to its junction with Meadow Creek near Garniel, then northeasterly along said creek to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then easterly along said divide to its intersection with the Red Hill Road, then north along said road to South Fork Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to US Highway 87, then southerly along said highway to Route 244, then northerly along said route to Winnett, then east along US Highway 200 to the Musselshell River, then south along the east bank of said river to the Melstone-Custer Road bridge, then south along the Melstone-Custer Road to Interstate 94 near Custer, then east along said interstate to State Route 47, then south along said route to Interstate 90 at Hardin, then south along said interstate to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then westerly along said line to the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then northerly and westerly along said boundary

to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River divide at Wolverine Peak, the point of beginning.

Special Regulations in Trapping Districts 1, 2 and portions of 3, 4 & 5 –

Those portions of Trapping Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 within the following described boundary: From the Montana-Idaho state line at the Canada border then east along said border to the Glacier National Park boundary and south and east along said boundary to Marias Pass then easterly along US Highway 2 to its intersection with US Highway 89 in Browning and then southeasterly along said highway to its intersection with US Highway 287 at Choteau and then southerly along said highway to its intersection with Interstate 90 near Three Forks and then easterly along said interstate to its intersection with State Route 78 at Columbus and then southerly along said route to its intersection with US Highway 212 at Red Lodge and then southerly along said route to the Montana-Wyoming state line and then along said state line to the Yellowstone National Park boundary and then west and south along that boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line and then westerly and northerly along said state line to the US-Canada border, the point of beginning.

District 6 –

Those portions of Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Garfield, Hill, McCone, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to the Marias River, then southerly along the east bank of said river to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Powerhouse, then southerly along the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south along said creek to State Route 200, then east and northeast along said route to the North Dakota border, then north along said border to the Canadian border, then west along said border to State Route 233, the point of beginning.

Portion of Trapping District 6 for Swift Fox Season – Those portions of Blaine, Hill, Phillips, and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to US Highway 2, then east along said route to the junction with Route 537 at Hinsdale, then north along said route to the Milk River and the confluence with Rock Creek, then north along said creek to the Canadian border, then west along said border to State Route 233, the point of beginning.

District 7 –

Those portions of Bighorn, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Treasure, Yellowstone and Wibaux Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Route 47 and Interstate 94, then west along said interstate to the intersection with the Melstone-Custer Road near Custer, then north along said road to Melstone, then east along US Highway 12 to the Musselshell River bridge, then north along the east bank of the Musselshell River to the Missouri River, then east and northeast down said river to the Fort Peck Powerhouse, then southerly along the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south up said creek to Little Dry Creek, then east along State Route 200 to the Montana-North Dakota state line, then south to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then west along said state line to Interstate 90, then north along said interstate to State Route 47, then north along said state route to Interstate 94, the point of beginning.

General Information

Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity, and Animal Welfare

- Use pan tension devices to avoid non-target catches.
- Use extra swivels and center-mounted chains to hold a higher percentage of animals and reduce the chance of injuries occurring.
- Use modern positioning techniques at dirt hole sets to increase selectivity.
- Use short trap chains for most land sets and especially those targeted for fox and coyote.
- Use guarded "stop-loss" traps for muskrats in shallow water or dry land sets.
- Use dispatching methods that are quick and humane.
- Use trap sizes that are appropriate for the target species—foot pad catches are desirable for fox, coyote, raccoon, and most other animals because they cause fewer injuries.
- Use baits and lures that attract target species but not other animals.
- Use cage, box or species-specific traps near barns, outbuildings, and other locations where domestic animals may be present.
- Use common sense in choosing set locations that maximize opportunities to catch target species and minimize opportunities to catch other animals.
- Use secure methods of attaching traps - tailor methods to hold the largest species occurring in the area in case of an incidental capture.
- Use traps with laminated jaws where the risk of non-target catches is high.
- Use discretion and select trap site placement carefully when setting body-gripping traps.
- Use time to your advantage—do not set more traps than you can handle.
- Use early morning trap checks to reduce the time an animal is held, reduce its chances of pulling out, and avoid theft of traps and animals.

Breakaway Snares

Following are examples of commercially manufactured breakaway lock designs that meet regulation requirements to release at 350 pounds of force or less:

- Amberg Lock with release ferrule
- Gregerson Lock Snares
- Snare Shop - N. D. Lock and Stop
- Breakaway J-Hooks
- Breakaway S-Hooks
- Thompson Snares - Thompson Release Lock

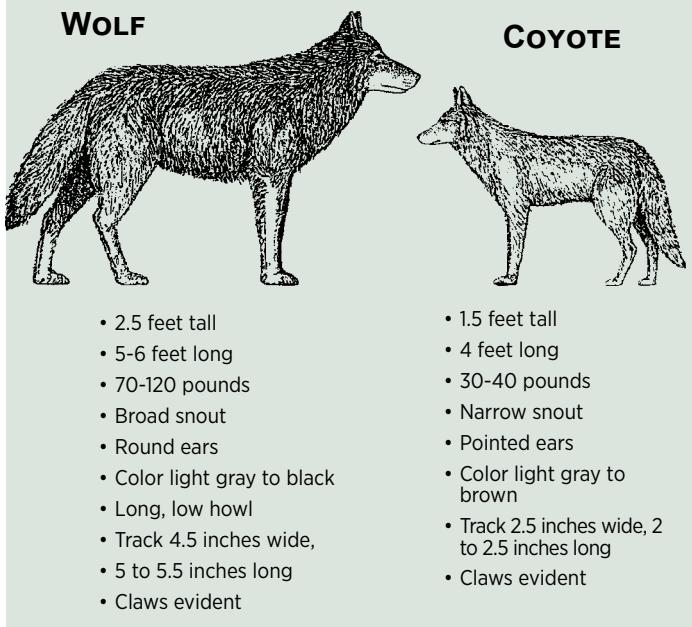
For information on dealers of breakaway lock devices and snares, contact the FWP State Furbearer Coordinator at 406-444-0042.

Relaxing Snares

A relaxing snare has a lock that allows the snare loop to loosen when an animal stops pulling against it. Below is a partial list of locks that are commercially available through snare and trap dealers and are considered relaxing locks, if they are not modified and are assembled with the appropriate snare cable diameter. Any alteration of a lock from its manufactured condition may affect performance, and again, the cable size must match the lock to avoid the cable from becoming bound up at the lock.

- Relax-A-Lock
- Dakota Line's Low Pro
- Relaxing Washer Lock
- Quarter Washer Lock
- Berkshire Washer Lock

Wolf Identification



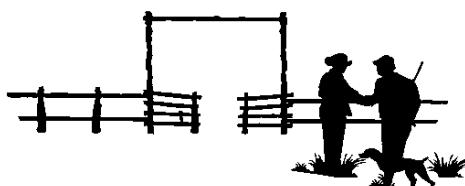
Checking Traps – FWP recommends checking traps at least once every 48 hours.

Export – A federal CITES pelt tag (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) is required to export the pelts of any bobcat, otter, or wolf from the United States. These CITES pelt tags are issued by FWP during the normal check-in and pelt tagging process. When transporting game, furbearers or fish between Montana and Canada, whether for commercial or noncommercial purposes, you must complete a USFWS declaration form and inspection. Contact the Wildlife Inspector, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 165, 39825 Interstate 15, Sweetgrass, MT 59484 or call (406) 335-4350 or FAX (406) 335-4351.

Trapper Mail Survey

Each year FWP mails a harvest survey to trappers. Information from this survey is used to track effort and population trends. This information is important for managing populations and determining appropriate levels of harvest. Please complete your survey accurately and on time. Doing so is important for the future of trapping!

RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY



- Leave gates as you find them
- Drive only on established roads or trails
- Do not leave any litter
- Be careful not to start any fires
- Wash vehicles to prevent spread of noxious weeds
- Obey all ranch rules
- Report any suspected violations
- Remember to say thanks

HELP PRESERVE MONTANA'S HUNTING HERITAGE
AND TRADITIONS

Who To Contact

Bobcat, Otter, Fisher and Swift Fox 24-hour Harvest Reporting Number **1-877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453)**
OR..... **406-444-0356**

Bobcat, Otter, Fisher and Swift Fox Quota Status
(24 hours/day - 7 days/week) **1-800-711-8727**
OR..... **406-444-9557**
OR online at the website..... **fwp.mt.gov**

Mountain Lion Quota Status
(24 hours/day - 7 days/week) **1-800-385-7826**
OR..... **406-444-1989**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters
1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
406-444-2535 - **fwp.mt.gov**

Hunter Education..... **406-444-9948**
Wildlife Bureau **406-444-2612**
Enforcement Bureau..... **406-444-2452**
Parks Division (Montana State Parks) **406-444-3750**
Hearing Impaired (use Montana Relay)..... **7-1-1 or 1-800-253-4091**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters

REGION 1

490 N Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901..... **406-752-5501**

REGION 2

3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804 **406-542-5500**

REGION 3

1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715 **406-994-4042**

REGION 4

4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405 **406-454-5840**

REGION 5

2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105..... **406-247-2940**

REGION 6

1 Airport Rd
Glasgow, MT 59230..... **406-228-3700**

REGION 7

352 I-94 Business Loop, PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301..... **406-234-0900**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Area Resource Offices

Butte

1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte, MT 59701..... **406-494-1953**

Havre

2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501..... **406-265-6177**

Helena

930 Custer Avenue West
Helena, MT 59602..... **406-495-3260**

Lewistown

333 Airport Rd, PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457..... **406-538-4658**

Cat Identification

Field identification characteristics of mountain lion, lynx, and bobcat—physical markings and tracks in the snow (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1999).



Mountain Lion



32"-44"



Lynx



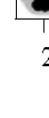
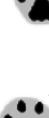
24"- 33"



Bobcat



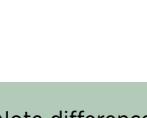
22"- 26"



3 1/2"-5"



3 1/2"



3 3/4"- 4 3/4"

- Note difference in tail length of lion. Black markings on tip of lynx and bobcat tails are different: lynx tail tip is black all around as if dipped in ink; bobcat tail is black on top only.
- Lynx ear tufts are longer than bobcat ear tufts.
- Lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat is much smaller.
- Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow.
- Note track size and stride length differences between species.

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**MONTANA FISH,
WILDLIFE & PARKS**